

SAPC 6277
Copy 4 of 8

17 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT : Alleged Loss of Film from Watertown

1. During a recent visit to Eastman-Kodak by a Project Security representative, [] pointed out that his examination of film received from Watertown clearly demonstrates that at some place prior to his reception of such material, portions have been cut from the "take". He indicates that on one occasion it was clear that material had been cut from both ends of the "take". Moreover, he has exceeding difficulty in accounting for the coverage. Apparently the latter problem stems from an inability to estimate the amount of "take" footage generated as a result of a specific mission.

2. Needless to say, this suggests a problem of inaccurate accountability during handling or processing. Nevertheless, we cannot overlook the possibility of actual theft of project materials. To resolve this we have generated a cable to Watertown requesting an explanation which is forwarded for your coordination. You may also wish to explore this matter with the Project Director of Operations, and therefore this has been set forth in memorandum form. Obviously, should such a procedure continue during overseas operations we will have a serious accountability problem. Moreover, [] suggests that it is impossible to adequately assess the success of the mission by development of the "take" at our operational bases. At an early date we hope to furnish some explanation of this matter to []

JAMES A. CUMMINGS, JR.
Director of Administration